Washtenaw Community College Foundation

Annual Report 2008-2009

"It's because of **people like you**, that **people like me**, have their

dreams come into focus"

focus beyond tomorrow

What will tomorrow bring?

This is always a difficult question to answer but this past year has brought new challenges. We understand at WCC that it's important to prepare students for what comes next; tomorrow and beyond.

When you review the 2008-2009 annual report you will read stories of students who have turned to education to help them get through changes during times of crisis; times when their tomorrow changed from what they had predicted.

The WCC Foundation provided help through scholarships. The scholarships empowered our students as they changed the direction of their lives. You were there to help them when they needed it most.

As student Megan Fraga stated in her speech at this year's scholarship luncheon, "It's because of people like you, that people like me, have their dreams come into focus." When you support a student through your contributions to the WCC Foundation, it's like adjusting a telescope. A future that was once blurry becomes clear as the means to achieving their dreams is achieved.

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This annual report brings into focus what happens when a community of neighbors, co-workers, peers and friends work together. The investment you've made in students not only impacts them, but their families and community… beyond tomorrow.

Warmly,

Wendy Lawson
Associate Vice President, Development,
Washtenaw Community College

"It's because of people like you, that people like me have their dreams into

Focused on a better tomorrow

Nearly 14,000 students registered for classes this fall semester, one of the largest enrollments we have experienced. Many of these students are turning to us to help them prepare for a future filled with unknowns. With 760,000 Michigan residents out of work, including 16,000 in Washtenaw County, the College provides a lifeline, not only for laid-off workers in need of a new career, but for recent high school graduates who find that many entry-level jobs now require at least some college training. But most of our students are here because of the small classes, the supportive environment, and the fact that we are close to home.

Our students are intently focused on their futures, and we are focused, not only on providing them with the best education possible, but also supporting them with the resources they need to succeed.

For workers in transition, we offer special workshops and support groups, as well as a "First Year Experience" seminar, which gives them the tools they need to work their way back into the college scene, including 'soft skills' such as planning, self-reliance and interpersonal communication.

Counselors and advisors are directing students to a set of resources they can use to become active participants in determining their best career fit. Career Focus magazine, which is delivered to all residents of Washtenaw County, is filled with employment advice and inspiring stories of students who have researched, planned and prepared for their futures, and then successfully met their goals. Career Focus Café is an online career planning resource with links to multitudes of Internet sites students can use to explore occupations, track jobs and learn basic skills like writing a resume or preparing for a job interview.

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There is no way to predict what kind of future our students face, but as we look to the busy semester that lies ahead, we feel confident that with quality instruction and personalized support from Washtenaw Community College, they will be equipped with the tools and training they need to focus on whatever opportunities await them.

Sincerely,

Larry Whitworth
President, Washtenaw Community College

,

come
focus"
Megan Fraga

focus beyond
tomorrow

"It's because of people like you, that people like me, have their dreams come into focus"

Megan Fraga

At 28 Megan Fraga's life couldn't seem more different than when she was 16. Fraga grew up in California, left her mother's house and moved in with her brother. There was absolutely no structure to her life. No one made her go to school, get a job or even get off the couch. There was also no one to give her self confidence or inspire her, or to push her to see what she was really capable of doing.

"That 16 year old person is no longer here. I was very angry, angry at my mother, everyone. I had no drive, no direction, no motivation. I was severely depressed but too young to recognize it. Being 16 and a typical kid who didn't have to go to school, I didn't. I dropped out of high school, took odd jobs and became a drug addict," admits Fraga.

"I knew I had to change for him. I quit smoking, drinking, can't even imagine using drugs again and I decided to go back to school. What I wanted to provide for him more than anything was the kind of stable home that I never had."

Then, a few years ago, a good friend of hers was accepted to the University of Michigan and asked Fraga if she would like to move to Michigan with her.

"I thought that a change of scenery would be good for me so I moved to Michigan and I can say that I will never move back to California. I feel very at home here and like the change of seasons," says Fraga.

But the pace of life for Fraga didn't drastically change at first. She was still taking odd jobs and wasn't very motivated because she didn't think she was very smart and didn't think she'd be good at anything. There had never been anything important to believe in for her until three years ago, when a person entered her life and suddenly gave everything meaning—her son Keegan.

"I knew I had to change for him. I quit smoking, drinking, can't even imagine using drugs again and I decided to go back to school," says Fraga. "What I wanted to provide for him more than anything was the kind of stable home that I never had."

Megan knew that to provide for her son she'd have to get an education but she had never finished high school. She took the GED exam and passed with flying colors, decided to enroll at WCC and lean on all the support systems already in place such as the Children's Center, the counselors, and of course the WCC Foundation.

Fraga received an Adult Transition scholarship to complete her GED and then another scholarship to cover expenses while completing her nursing transfer

program. Fraga is making ends meet by living as simply as possible. She has no car, no cable, no Internet while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"I'm surprised that I don't miss those things in my life right now. I am also surprised that I am doing so well, especially in subjects that intimidated me before like chemistry," says Fraga.

After Fraga completes her nursing degree at U-M she hopes to one day be a flight medic. "I want to be where the trauma is, stabilize the patient and then hand them off to others who will take over their care. I get too attached to people."

Fraga knows that she has a lot of hard work in front of her, but her priorities are set. "My son Keegan and my education are my life right now and that's awesome!"

Stephan Montgomery

Every day Stephan Montgomery came to class with two large bags filled with all his possessions. He placed the bags in the corner of the classroom and then sat at his desk. He explained to the teacher that he couldn't leave anything at the homeless shelter because it would get stolen. Montgomery never missed a class and at 55 gets straight As and Bs.

But for Montgomery it wasn't always like that. He was a Detroit police officer for 14 years dealing with thieves, drug addicts, prostitutes and gangs.

"Ninety percent of what I dealt with was the worst part of society. I arrested the same people over and over again. All I wanted was to make the streets safe for people like my mother and I really thought that as a police officer I could make a difference," explains Montgomery.

Then his life spun out of control when his 17-year old son died of an asthma attack and a few months later his beloved mother died. A casual relationship with alcohol turned into an addiction. He lost his job on the force, lost his license because of drunk driving and found himself on the streets and in shelters.

"I saw a friend get into a fight because he was drunk. His arm got broken and it never healed. He had made a good living as a barber but he couldn't cut hair anymore. A light went off in

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my brain at that moment that I was throwing everything away because of an addiction. I never thought I'd end up in a shelter where most peoples' dreams and hopes don't extend farther than their arms," says Montgomery.

Wanting to learn more about computers, Montgomery started frequenting the public library taking free computer classes. His desire to improve his situation and his new found interest in learning brought him to Ann Arbor where he moved into the Staples Family Center. With a Community Foundation grant and a Pell grant Montgomery began taking classes at WCC in the winter of 2007. At that time his interest was still computers, but his confidence was low until he took an English class with instructor Maxine Gibson.

"I call her my Angel of Light. She said to me 'we are all born into a movie that we call life—it's your responsibility to find out what your role is in that movie'. Then I helped a struggling student with a paper. He told me he got the first A in his life! I felt so good that I decided my role would be as an elementary school teacher, where I can influence young children and be a positive role model to them," says Montgomery.

Writing Center director Tom Zimmerman hired Montgomery as a writing tutor and soon he was able to move out of the homeless shelter into a room at a boarding house. He didn't have to bring his possessions to class anymore.

> "A light went off in my brain at that moment that I was throwing everything away because of an addiction. I never thought I'd end up in a shelter where most peoples' dreams and hopes don't extend farther than their arms,"

Montgomery received a WCC Foundation scholarship for the entire 2008-2009 academic year.

"Just the fact that I was considered for the scholarship, much less receiving it, made me so grateful. It reconfirmed that there were people out there who believed in me. No longer did I have to drink out of the muddy waters of despair. I now had hope that if I maintained these goals and worked hard I would succeed," says Montgomery.

Mike and Robin Franco

Unfortunately, hearing that someone has been laid off these days isn't surprising. Mike and Robin Franco knew people who were losing their jobs. They weren't even shocked when Robin, a machine operator at Metaldyne, saw her name on a layoff list that was inadvertently left in the copier. At least they had advanced warning and could budget for it. But when Mike, a service technician for Packline, also lost his job a few months later it was time to seriously regroup.

"I was able to bank my paychecks because I knew in a few weeks I was going to lose my job. I could plan for it. But when Mike lost his job I went into near panic. We put ourselves on a serious budget, turned off lights, bargained shopped, no more going out to eat or going to movies, refinanced the house. We had to say 'no' a lot," says Robin.

Robin and Mike started doing charity work for those less fortunate, and friends and neighbors began helping them in turn. The idea of the community coming

together to support those in times of need registered with Robin and germinated a seed long dormant.

Even though Mike and Robin had faith that things would work out, they also knew that education and communication was the key to getting their lives back on track. Mike enrolled in the electronics program at WCC and Robin decided she would follow her dream of helping people by pursuing a degree in Human Services.

Without missing a beat they both researched and applied for grants and scholarships. "The Foundation scholarship came at the most awesome time!" says Robin. "We were able to use the money for things that helped make us successful students such as a special computer that I needed because of my learning disabilities." Robin is proud to announce that she has made the Dean's List and Mike has High Honors.

Even before he was done with the electronics program Mike networked his way to a job interview and he felt confident that WCC had a hand in the decision to hire him. Mike began his new job in August and is putting what he learned at WCC to good use.

Mike, Robin and one of their sons will all graduate at the same time in 2010. Robin plans to transfer to Eastern Michigan University to get her bachelor's degree in Human Services but she admits to dreading leaving the support of WCC.

"I was so grateful to the WCC Foundation for the scholarship. I can't encourage people enough that they should come here. Don't wait for the economy to come back—you've got to come back to school so you can follow your dreams," says Robin.

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Completed Endowments 2008-2009

Christopher Lawson

Wendy Lawson, vice president of Development at Washtenaw Community College, remembers her twin brother as the family peacemaker, the great adventurer, the goofy one who could make others laugh with his antics. As twins they were incredibly close. Her mother told her that Chris would help Wendy escape their playpen as young children only to discover that he would still be trapped inside.

Childhood friend John Fingerle remembers Chris as someone who made friends easily. "During elementary school at Burns Park Chris was both funny and fun to be with," says John. "He attracted lots of friends and could have easily hung out with those in the cool clique, and he did, but not to the exclusion of others. Chris was generous with his time. He reached out to and became genuine friends with many who were not members of the in crowd. Chris pulled for the underdog. I know that Chris would be pleased to see his scholarship awarded to those who need help."

Chris was a dreamer, an eternal optimist and an avid outdoorsman. But he was also prone to addiction and struggled for many years with drugs. After a couple of drug free years Chris went on a trip to Mexico where he relapsed and at the young age of 33 died. Wendy has established an endowment in her brother's name to go where the need is greatest to benefit the WCC students.

Celestino Cicone

Celestino Cicone was born in Pietransieri, Italy in 1904 but emigrated to the United States in 1929 to build a better life for his wife and young daughter. Unfortunately his timing couldn't have been worse—the Great Depression was just beginning and it took him seven years to save enough money to bring his family over to join him. But just as Celestino was about to reunite with his family they were turned back because of the outbreak of World War II. Finally, 17 years after Celestino left Italy, they reconnected.

"My father was a great and simple man, which reflected his roots from Italy," says Richard Cicone. "He was also a very talented craftsman."

Celestino made a living as a welder and pipefitter for Acorn Ironworks in Detroit, but he never lost his artistic side creating beautiful ornamental ironworks with his brother and brother-in-law during the Depression and onwards.

Richard always knew his father valued education as a way toward a better life. "My parents had limited formal education but pushed us in school. His job was welding and our jobs were to get as good an education as we could," says Richard.

The Celestino Cicone scholarship has been established to recognize that welding is a craft and needs to be preserved. "I appreciate that WCC is willing to invest resources in the skill of welding and the scholarship acknowledges what it meant to my father," says Richard.

Left: Jennifer Beauman age 3, right: Marie Beauman age 5.

Marie Beauman

Marie Beauman was a young girl who was born with multiple and significant disabilities and who needed constant care to be fed, bathed, and even to breathe. Marie died at the age of 10 and in those few years taught her parents the meaning of unconditional love and giving. She also reinforced to her family what a gift health and well-being are to her entire family. Marie may not have lived long but it was the love she received from her family that kept her alive 10 years longer then the doctors thought she would.

Judy and Larry Macklem established the Marie Beauman scholarship to honor their young niece who struggled against all odds to be born, to live and to love. This scholarship is available to WCC students pursuing a Childcare Professional or Nursing degree.

New Annual Scholarships

Gifts of $1,500 can establish an annual scholarship that will support one full-time student or two part-time students for one year. Annual scholarships established in 2008-2009 include:

Custom Cars & Concepts Scholarship

Dmitri Young, former Detroit Tiger and current member of the Washington Nationals major league baseball team, established this scholarship to benefit automotive technology students. Students in the Custom Cars & Concepts program fabricated a custom car for him.

WCC Trustee Anne M. Williams Scholarship

WCC Trustee Anne Williams established this scholarship to support students, particularly those in need of retraining, who are pursuing a degree in a vocational or technological field.

McKinley Scholarship

McKinley, an Ann Arbor-based real estate investment and management company, established this scholarship to benefit students pursuing the study of business.

Newly Established Endowments

Gifts or pledges of $10,000 and above can endow a scholarship that will be awarded in perpetuity to support students. We are grateful to the following donors for beginning an endowment in 2008-2009:

Joseph & Antonia Galea Memorial Scholarship
(established by Michael & Carole Galea)

Christine Officer Stephens Scholarship
(established by Janice Stephens)

Arbor Brewing Company Business & Hospitality Scholarship
(established by Rene & Matt Greff)

Arthur Finney Scholarship
(established by Michael & Gina Finney)

Sally Adler Child Care Scholarship

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Mr. and Mrs. Roger Newton
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Dmitri Young

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Adaptec, Inc.
AT&T Foundation
DaimlerChrysler Corp Fund
Ford Matching Gift Program
GE Foundation
Lockheed Martin Matching Gift Program
Pfizer Foundation
SBC Foundation

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Action Rental Center
Afternoon Delight
Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce
Ann Arbor Commerce Bank
Ann Arbor Country Club
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Ann Arbor Tortilla Factory
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
Arbor Brewing Company
AVI Foodsystems
Back Alley Gourmet
Barton Hills Country Club
Best Wallcovering & Painting, Inc.
Big George's Home Appliance Mart
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI
Borders Group, Inc.
C. W. Petersen Jewelers
Cafe Habana
Canton Leisure Services
Chase
Chelsea Community Hospital
Chelsea Flower Shop LLC
Chelsea Milling Co.
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ChristiDesigns
Marilyn Citron
Coffee Express Company
Colonial Lanes - Cubs AC
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Conor O'Neill's Traditional Irish Pub & Restaurant
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Deli Partners LLC
Dell, Inc.
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Detroit Red Wings Community Relations Department
Detroit Tigers, Inc.
Dewpoint
Sunil K. Dourado
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Effortless Entertaining
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Fast Signs
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Foresight Group
Fox Hills Country Club
Gem & Century Theaters
General Motors Powertrain Ypsilanti
Gordon Food Service
Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.
Grainger Industrial Supply
Granger Construction Company
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Grizzly Peak Brewing Co.
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Hell Survivors, Inc.
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Knight's Steakhouse
Lake Forest Golf Club
Lewis Jewelers
Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack
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Loel Martin
Max & Erma's
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M-Den
Mercantile Bank
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Morgan & York
Monte Nagler
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Salem Hills Golf Club
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Miesel Sysco Food Service Co.
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Terumo Cardiovascular Systems
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The Common Grill
The Detroit Pistons
The Henry Ford
The Inn on Ferry Street
The Jackal Golf Club
The Polo Fields Golf & Country Club
TIAA Cref
Tom Thompson Flowers
Trader Joe's Company
Tricho Salon
Thomas T. Tsai
Ultimate Cloth Orders
United Bank & Trust
University Bank
University Musical Society
University of Michigan Golf Course
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Vie Fitness & Spa
Vineyard Vines
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Doug White
Whole Foods
Wiard's Orchards, Inc.
Yesterday's Collection, Inc.
Zanzibar Restaurant

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AAUW Margaret Weddell Brandon
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Arthur Gluckman Memorial
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Buhr Foundation
C Wendell Dunbar
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Celestino Cicone Memorial
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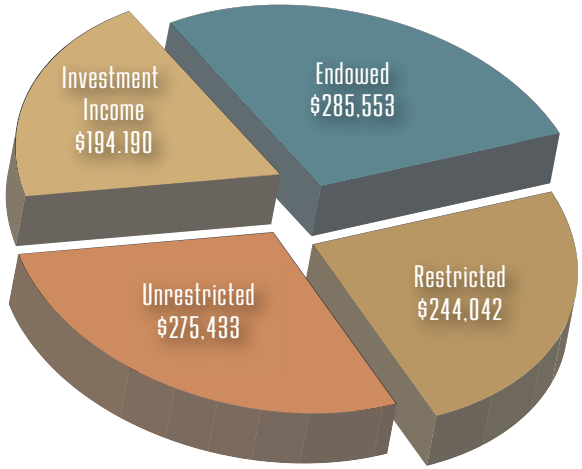
2008-09 Financial Statement

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

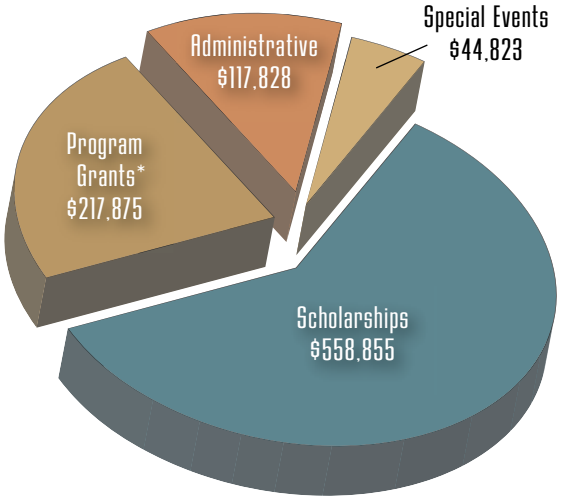
Contributions

Unrestricted	$275,433
Restricted	$244,042
Endowed	$285,553
Investment Income	$194,190
Total	$999,218



Expenses

Administrative	$117,828
Special events	$ 44,823
Scholarships	$558,855
Program Grants*	$217,875
Total	$939,381



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The Mission of the WCC Foundation

To support Washtenaw Community College and its students by raising money for scholarships and other financial needs while promoting the benefits of the College to the community.

This Annual Report was designed and produced by WCC Public Relations and Marketing Services.

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